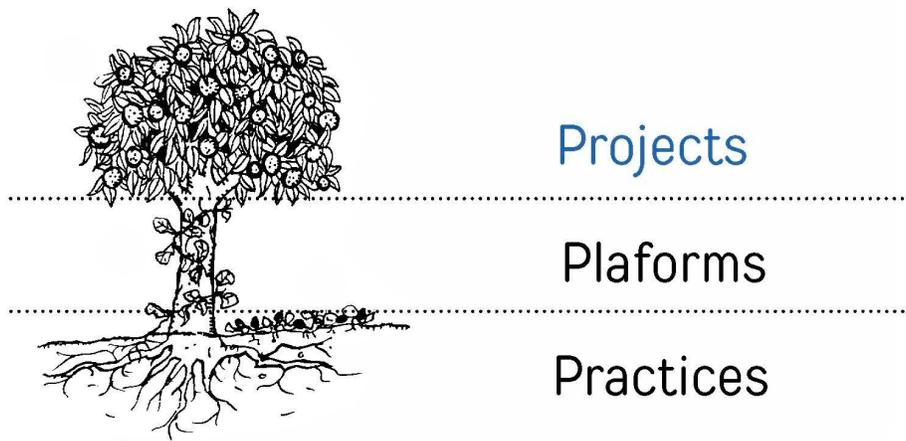


Dear artists,

I believe that we, as artists, need to **learn to think organizationally** in order to imagine how our artwork and ideas might circulate in the world, and to take action. I believe that we can work together as artists to create opportunities for ourselves and for one another. I have created a diagram using a tree as an analogy, to describe my approach to friends. I am writing this down now to invite you to use it, even if we never meet. Perhaps you can connect the ideas in your artwork / projects to the organizations / platforms and daily practices that you engage with on a daily basis. Sharon Loudon reminds us that we can be as creative in making opportunities for ourselves as we are in making our artwork. I hope this diagram, framework, and questions help you get started. Please email me with questions, adaptations, or feedback.

In cooperation,

Caroline Woolard



Projects: The fruit and leaves; shiny and short-lived. You might also call projects artworks, objects, or events. A project is an object or experience which is produced with an imagined audience that is larger than the artist or group involved in the effort of creation.

Platforms: The tree trunk and branches; strong and enduring. You might call also platforms organizations, or initiatives, or collectives. A platform is a multi-year initiative that aims to reproduce itself in order to reliably provide support for projects.

Practices: The roots or mycelium; underground and life-giving. A practice is a way of doing things intentionally on a regular basis to develop an ability or awareness. Practices nurture platforms.

List five intentions, commitments, concepts, concerns, values, or ideas that matter to you, in the project(s) are you working on now or in your life, whatever comes to mind:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

Which platforms, multi-year initiatives, organizations, initiatives, or collectives are most aligned with the ideas / intentions you've listed above, and why? To learn more about artist-run spaces in the United States, see *Common Field*¹ and the *Allied Media Conference*².

What practices (ways of doing things intentionally on a regular basis to develop an ability or awareness) are most aligned with your intentions / ideas / project, and why? To see a range of practices, from meditation to tarot and beholding, look at contemplative practices.³

¹ <https://www.commonfield.org/network/organizations/map/>

² <https://www.alliedmedia.org/amc/schedule>

³ <http://www.contemplativemind.org/practices/tree>

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

Where will your artwork go, after you make it, if you are NOT intentional about it?

What places and people are aligned with your ideas and values, and how will you begin to find these places and people?

How will might you join and co-create places and communities that are aligned with your work?⁴

⁴ For another worksheet on this topic, see: <http://carolinewoolard.com/#finding-collaborators-and-creative-conversations-nyc> and <http://carolinewoolard.com/#what-successful-project>